Obstetricians Offer Mass of Thanksgiving

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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to remember his oath "to teach them his art, if they want to learn it". We would like to assure him that the busy students also want to learn it. They need his aid in their efforts in a secularistic environment to remain Catholics, to become doctors, and above all, to become Catholic doctors.


Evidence of interest in other sections of the nation is reported... Six members of the Los Angeles Guild are conducting a series of three seminars for the benefit of the students of the local medical schools who would have no other opportunity of formal direction in medical ethics. The efforts of these men are received most enthusiastically. Those doctors responsible for the very worthy venture are: Robert Kelly, M.D., James Kelly, M.D., Clyde Von der Ahe, M.D., Eugene Hoffman, M.D., Joachim Haus, M.D. and C. Francis Werts, M.D. The Guild will also present some Catholic ethical views to a group of students at UCLA at one of their extra-curricular study group meetings.

A course in religious and moral ethics is taught at the State University School of Medicine in Denver, Colorado under the able leadership of Dr. Frank B. McGlone, first President of the Denver Guild. This group also takes interest in the Catholic members of the house staff of the various hospitals in Denver as well as the Catholic medical students and see to it that they are invited to meetings and have access to Linacre Quarterly.

The Newman Foundation at the University of Minnesota is supplied with the journal, too, by the Minneapolis Guild for the membership there.

Likewise, the Cleveland Guild subscribes for the medical units of the University of Cincinnati, Western Reserve University, Ohio State University and nine medical fraternities in the area.

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The time was a day early in January 1944. The place was St. John's Hospital in St. Louis. The administrator was discussing with the staff's chief obstetrician the events of the previous year. Personnel shortages had occurred, supplies had been curtailed—it had been difficult to carry on, giving the usual patient care during a war year. "In spite of all—we have been singularly blessed" the physician was humbly declaring. "We have not lost a mother during these trying months. Thanks be to God for that!"

In pursuing the matter further, the grateful physician wondered aloud if the hospital would help him sponsor a Mass of Thanksgiving and invite all the obstetricians on the staff. Immediate assent was forthcoming. By happy coincidence, the most convenient Sunday closest to the thought was the Feast of the Holy Family and was chosen as the day. Invitations were sent to 14 obstetricians on the staff. This year, for the ninth time, 40 physicians assisted at the Mass.

Frequently interns serve the Mass. Breakfast then follows in the hospital and the priest celebrating the Holy Sacrifice is asked to address the group, honoring the occasion.

1954 will be the 10th anniversary of the Obstetricians' Mass of Thanksgiving. To share this custom with all those who serve in this field, we are reporting this activity with the thought that other Catholic hospitals in co-operation with their staff may be interested in establishing this practice. Without any formal organization, it is hoped that this beautiful ceremony expressing gratitude might become national.

Obstetricians are urged to discuss this with their hospital administrators and if agreeable, make plans for a Mass of Thanksgiving in the hospital chapel on the Feast of the Holy Family in 1954 and annually thereafter.

Annual Meeting of Catholic Physicians

The annual meeting for Catholic physicians will be held Wednesday, June 3, 1953. The occasion is sponsored by the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds but not necessarily limited to membership. All Catholic doctors are cordially invited to attend.

The place—Hotel Commodore, New York City

The time—12:30 p.m.—Luncheon—

A short program will follow the luncheon. His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, is to be guest speaker.

If you have not mailed your reservation to date, you are urged to do so at once.